News Notes

from the COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

addressed to those who are concerned with Christianity and Higher Education

EVEL ONE

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PROTESTANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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Highlight of the Annual Meeting of the Council of Protestant Colleges and Universities was the presentation of Dr. James M. Godard as the new Executive Director of the Council. Dr. Arthur G. Coons, President of Occidental College, Los Angeles, made a significant contribution to the theological and philosophical foundations of the Council when he spoke on "Faith, Freedom and the Church College." (Copies of the address will be made available.)

Dr. Miller Upton, President of Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin, received the gavel of the Presidency from out-going President, Dr. Fred G. Holloway of Drew University.

A panel presentation and discussion on "The Organization Man and the American College" proved to be stimulating. The speakers Dr. Marshall Dimock of New York University and Dr. Will Herberg of Drew University applied the questions being raised by contemporary social developments to the campus situation. (It is hoped to make copies of their statements available.)

Dr. Godard brings unique gifts, training and experience to his leadership of the Council. He is a graduate of Park College, holds a graduate degree from Duke University and pursued further graduate study at the University of Chicago. Further academic recognition includes L.L.D., Texas Christian University; Doctor of Letters, Midwestern University; Doctor of Humane Letters, Lander College.

After teaching at Park College and Duke University he served as Dean and Professor of Education at Queens College, Charlotte, North Carolina. He then served for six years as Executive Secretary of the Commission on Colleges and Universities of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

At the present time he is Executive Vice-President of the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida. He is well known as a leader in Congregational and Presbyterian church circles.

> "The church-related college will share with all higher education the challenge of finding answers to the daily dilemmas. It will share with all higher education the task of teaching historical perspective, scientific method, and wisdom of the humanities. But it is its particular function to exhibit its complete confidence in the sense of destiny which is based on the concept of a God who created man for a purpose and under Whose hand the purpose is being achieved.
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> "The church-related college will show outward signs of the ways in which it is distinctive. But these outward forms are a hollow mockery of little significance unless beneath these practices there is a spiritual consciousness of the reality of God and of the implications we have considered, three consequences which would seem mandatory for the church-related college: THE LOVE OF EXCELLENCE, THE PRACTICE OF COMPASSION, AND THE SENSE OF DESTINY."

(From an address "The Church-Related College" - Dr. James M. Godard, April 2, 1959)

Dr. Godard expects to open the office of the Council at 1818 R. Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. about the middle of March and to take up his duties fultime May or June.

ATHENS CONFERENCE REPORT

One of the exciting aspects of the 18th Ecumenical Student Conference on the Christian World Mission was its world-wide representation. Of its 3,609 delegates, 1,010 were from 77 countries outside the United States, 397 from Asia, 130 from Europe, and 109 from Africa.

Just what happened at Athens beyond the personal inspiration and stimulation of those who attended will never be known. Doug Cook feels this way about it:

- The Conference was an expression of the whole church across the world. It gave the students an awareness of the nature of the church.
- Athens focused upon some of the issues involved in Mission and pointed to possible directions.
- It faced the leadership of the churches with the question - how does the church become relevant in the world?
- There was a serious pointing to the meaning of obedience on the local campus.

VISITING SCHOLARS

We again call attention to the list of "Visiting Scholars in the United States" - Fulbright (available from the Conference Board of Associated Research Councils, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D.C.) Many of these scholars are available for special lectures and addresses, some have indicated subjects on which they will speak. They constitute resources many of us are neglecting.

- Dr. Alec Boyd at the University of North Carolina has spent his life in India as Principal of a church college and has given profound thought to the issue of faith and learning as well as being an expert in the world religions.

- On the boat returning from Europe I shared a cabin with Dr. Andrew Boyle of the University of Manchester, now at University of California, Berkeley, and learned a lot about Persian literature and religion.

GEORGE MCLEOD

Of particular interest is the return to the U.S. of Dr. George McLeod of the Iona Community, Scotland. Dr. McLeod will be here for two or three months under the auspices of the Arts Program of the AAC (200 W. 57th St., New York.)

MARJORIE REEVES

This year Dr. Marjorie Reeves will make a return visit September to December, 1960.

Speaking of using faculty, some one suggested recently that an excellent way of aquainting church leaders with Christian Colleges would be to present some of our strong faculty leaders at Denominational conferences and assemblies.

ENCLOSURES

Two enclosures are sent with this issue of News Notes. One is the current issue of Information Service designed for use in the promotion of National Christian College Day. It is available at 10¢ a copy or $4.00 a hundred. The other is an excellent listing of available study and discussion material from N. S. C. F.

SCHOLAR SPARKLES

Last night I went through the proof sheets of the March issue of The Christian Scholar. Don't miss it. Sidney Ahlstrom gives a fresh approach to the idea of a church college. John O. Mellin writes a delightful yet serious essay on the affinity between mystery stories and theologians. The book reviews are excellent, especially Gustave Weigel on Tillich's Theology of Culture.

Among the unique contributions the Christian colleges may be in a position to make are answers to the questions raised by Robert Heilbroner in his Reporter Article "Dilemmas of Abundance" - (Jan. 21, 1960). Heilbroner sees serious consequences arising from an economy of abundance when economic affluence breaks down "our accustomed mechanism of social control." As standards of living rise who will do the dirty work? Heretofore certain people have been forced by circumstances to do the necessary but distasteful work. Increasingly we have been drawing on imported foreign labor. Can this be done indefinitely?

CHALLENGE

TO

Business is increasingly losing the "control excercised by the competative market". "What measures may be needed to re-establish social control over business....in a society that lacks accustomed market discipline? How can we free the individual and personal values in a time when this economic growth overwhelms us with the mechanical and technical?

CHRISTIAN

COLLEGES

At present "the main control we exercise over the social incursion of technology is economic". We develope the technological by the profit motive "in a manner which is essentially capricious and haphazard....in the end the question is: who is to be master, man or his machines?"

Finally Heilbroner points to the widening gap between our affluence and the levels of poverty of the underdeveloped nations. "The division of the world into the abjectly poor and the grossly rich....which appeared as a matter of immutable fate....becomes iniquitous, intolerable and infuriating". Furthermore, the easy assumption that other nations will catch up before long seems questionable. According to Dr. G. L. Bach of the Carnegie Institute, at present rates of development it will take 250 years for Latin-American income to reach one-third of the then current United States income levels. The gap isn't narrowing, it is widening and it will only be narrowed as changes in thinking and action now undreamed of take place.

Is there sufficient Christian vision coupled with knowledge and understanding to make our colleges institutions that will produce graduates capable of giving constructive answers and leadership to these questions? Are there resources in the Christian understanding of man and life that will provide foundations of ideals and vision to deal with these questions? Are there resources in the Christian doctrines of creation, work and salvation which combined with the knowledge and understanding available in departments of economics, sociology, philosophy, etc., may enable the church to make its gospel relevant to the critical problems of our times?

The Christian college is important for what it may do for individual students but perhaps it is time for us to be giving more thought to its social responsibility.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Meeting of the Commission on Higher Education, Feb. 14-15, 1960, Sheraton-Jefferson Hotel, St. Louis.

ANNUAL

MEETING

Schedule of Meetings

C.H.E.

February 10 - 14 - Department of Campus Christian Life
February 11 - 13 - Department of the Ministry
February 14 - 9 a.m. Exec. Committee CHE
2 p.m. Administrative Committee CHE
(interested friends welcome)
6:15 p.m. Annual Dinner CHE (Send in reservations)
Address - Dr. Alec Boyd, India
February 15 - 9 a.m. CHE Meeting